



## **REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER - PROCUREMENT**

### **INTEGRATED COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT LOANS SERVICE TENDER 2023**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform Finance Committee that the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee agreed on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021 to proceed with the tender for a provider for the county-wide Integrated Community Equipment Loans Service (ICELS) through a framework agreement for a single provider. The value of the Call-Off Contracts are likely to be approximately £7.7 million per annum.
2. The Integrated Community Equipment Loans Service (ICELS) is the mechanism by which equipment that is prescribed to keep vulnerable people in their own homes is ordered, delivered and maintained across Nottinghamshire County. The service has been in place since 2004.
3. This report and accompanying Powerpoint presentation provides committee with an overview of the Procurement approach so members are informed of the process. This allows members to be informed about the procurement being undertaken and a further report will be brought to Finance committee on the outcome of the tender and award of contract.

#### **Background**

4. ICELS is jointly commissioned by the ICELS Partnership which is:
  - Nottinghamshire County Council
  - Nottingham City Council
  - Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group
  - Bassetlaw Clinical Commissioning Group
5. Nottinghamshire County Council is the lead commissioner of ICELS and hosts the ICELS Partnership Support Team. This team manages the contract and supports the ICELS Partnership. The Partnership currently procures the service from the British Red Cross with whom the contract is in place for a full countywide service until 31st March 2023.

6. On average the service handles over £26 million worth of equipment per year with deliveries of over £14 million and collections of £12 million. It visits over 550 homes per day, seven days a week.

## **Strategic Context**

7. The overall role of ICELS is to provide community equipment into people's homes to:
  - support discharges from hospital
  - prevent unnecessary admissions to hospital
  - support on-going frailty
  - prevent further deterioration, e.g. falls prevention, intermediate care
  - support people's choice to remain in their own homes
  - aid rehabilitation and re-ablement
  - assist with children's development
  - provide more specialist equipment when required
8. Equipment is ordered by occupational therapists, physiotherapists and community based nurses who are referred to as 'prescribers'. They use their professional skills and understanding of people's health and wellbeing to identify which pieces of equipment will best meet people's needs. Most prescribers are employed by a health organisation, either working in hospitals or community health services, and some occupational therapists are employed by the local authorities.
9. The service loans equipment to individuals and not to organisations; it is therefore essential that equipment is returned when no longer required by that individual so that it can be re-issued to another individual and is an efficient use of resources. Over 90% of collected items are refurbished and recycled back into use for someone else. The Framework Agreement will require the provider to ensure that any negative impact on the environment is minimised throughout its life.

## **The Procurement Process**

10. The procurement process that will be used is Competitive Procedure with Negotiation. This process incorporates a period of negotiation with Bidders to allow for the development of a more detailed specification and is specifically for complex or high-risk services or products.

## **Service delivery**

11. The length of the contract commissioned under the Framework Agreement is expected to be for a maximum period of 10 years with an initial term of five years and an option to extend for a further five. This is to provide stability and security both to the provider and the Partnership and to allow for the development and fostering of a collaborative relationship.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

12.To allow members an opportunity to ask questions so they understand the process to secure the best solution for the provision of ICELS. Members are asked to agree to receive an update report on the outcome of the tender and award of contract.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

13.This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Financial Implications**

14.Pricing will form part of the award criteria, along with quality. The Most Economically Advantageous Tenderer will be selected as the preferred Bidder. It is anticipated that the service will cost approximately £7.7 million per annum.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Committee are asked to;

Note the progress of the work on the ICELS procurement and agree to receive an update report on the outcome of the tender and award of contract.

## **For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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## **Constitutional Comments (KK 09/12/21)**

The proposals in this report are within the remit of the Finance Committee.

## **Financial Comments (DG 06/12/21)**

The pooled budget is an annual budget of circa £7.7m and Nottinghamshire County Council contributes annually circa £1.4m for adults and £0.4m for childrens, which is within the departments permanent budget.

**Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All